Committee on Deep Sea Fishing Policy. The Committee inter-alia recommended that all permits issued for fishing by Joint Venture/Charter/Lease/Test Fishing should immediately be cancelled subject to legal processes as may be required. In respect of this recommendation, it has been decided that action to cancel such permits/permissions has to be taken in consultation with the Ministry of Law in individual cases, on violation of MZI Act, 1981, Rules framed thereunder and/or terms and conditions of such letters of permits/ permissions.

[Translation]

Litigation in Service Matters

1718. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the number of litigation in service matters;

(b) whether the Central Administrative Tribunal takes much time to dispose of the cases due to postponement of the cases, again and again and by taking long period;

(c) if so, the steps taken to dispose of these cases immediately and to ensure that decision is taken within six months on any matter;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Members of the Administrative Services Tribunals retire in a very short period and thereby making it difficult to two Members Bench;

(e) whether the Government propose to appoint the Legal Experts and Judges from the Judiciary Service; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) All the Ministries/ Departments of the Governments of India have been advised to strictly adhere to and properly implement the prescribed policies, rules, orders etc. so that the litigation is reduced to a minimum. Instructions have also been issued to them to review their staff grievance redressal machinery, identify the grievance prone areas with a view to remedying for defects, simplify the rules and procedures and take steps for fixing time-norms for disposal of all staff matters.

(b) to (d). No comparative study has been undertaken to compare the time taken in disposal of cases by other courts vis-a-vis Central Administrative Tribunal. Adjournments are granted by the Tribunal in their judicial capacity. Government has issued instructions to all Ministries/Departments to properly and effectively defend their cases in the Tribunal. Efforts are also made to fill up the vacancies at the levels If Vice-Chairman and Member in the Tribunal as expeditiously as possible in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

(e) and (f). A Court in the Tribunal consists of one Member from the judicial stream and th other from the administrative stream. Serving/retired High Court Judges and Judicial Officers are already being appointed against the posts of Vice-Chairman and Judicial Members in the Tribunal.

[English]

Exploration of Gas in Southern Assam

1719. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that oil exploration in Southern Assam is slow as out of total 10 wells only two are operational; and

(b) the steps taken to explore more oil there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). The Southern Assam constitutes the South of Dhansiri Valley and Cachar area. Presently 5 seismic crews and 4 drilling rigs are deployed by ONGC to carry out exploration activities in Southern Assam.

Recently Government of India has also awarded three blocks in Southern Assam for exploration to private/ multinational companies.

Illegal Structures

1720. SHRI I.L.D. SWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 4398 dated September 4, 1996 regarding illegal structures and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the cases in which stay orders were granted by the Delhi High Court as reported by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Council are given in the attached Statement.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) above.